

How we
got our
American
Standard
Bible.

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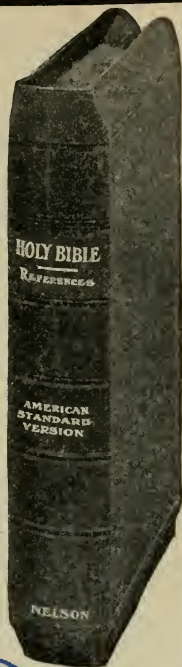
Division

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Section

H84

✓
How We
Got Our
American
Standard
Bible



THE PERFECT
BIBLE ISSUED
BY THE OLDEST
BIBLE PUBLISH-
ING FIRM IN THE
UNITED STATES



THOMAS NELSON & SONS

BIBLE PUBLISHERS FOR 50 YEARS

37-41 EAST 18TH STREET, NEW YORK

“We believe the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE is the product of the highest scholarship, and further, we believe that it more nearly brings the message of God to his children than any other of the great versions. We are glad to note its increasing use. Three years ago this Association approved of this American Standard Revision, and we again commend it, and earnestly urge its use in our schools.”

*Adopted by the Sunday School Editorial Association at its Annual Meeting, June 8th, 1906.

(Signed) C. R. BLACKALL, Sec'y.

* The above resolution was unanimously adopted by the Sunday School Editorial Association composed of the Sunday School Editors and Lesson Writers of the United States and Canada at their Annual Meeting of all the denominations, June 8th, 1906.



Since the year 1816, the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY has published only the King James Version of the Scriptures, but recognizing the merits of the work of the American Committee, and to meet the demands, of Churches and Sunday Schools, the Society has recently had its charter amended so as to enable it to publish the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE.

The Society therefore arranged with the publishers, Messrs. Thomas Nelson & Sons, and are issuing an edition, bound in cloth only, specially for church and Sunday School use.

This endorsement of the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE by the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY emphasizes the great merits of this work, and is in harmony with all the other great religious authorities.

THE STORY



THE Bible is composed of sixty-six (66) different books written by about forty (40) men selected and inspired by God.

These inspired men first wrote the Old Testament scriptures in Hebrew and the New Testament scriptures in Greek, and our English Bible of to-day consists of a series of translations and revisions from the Hebrew, Syriac, Greek, Latin and Anglo-Saxon languages, beginning at the tenth century.

It is estimated that there are in existence at the present time nearly 4,000 manuscripts in whole or in part of the Bible. All of the older and more complete sacred manuscripts have become available for study only within recent years; among these a single leaf containing a portion of Matthew's Gospel was unearthed in 1895. This is believed to be a full century older than the most ancient Greek New Testament manuscripts in existence.

It was not until 1384 that the first complete Bible was translated into English by John Wycliffe. A hundred years later this was followed by a translation and revision made by William Tyndale, which was the *first printed Bible*, all *previous* editions having been *in manuscript only*. Tyndale's Bible was followed by the Great Bible; this was followed by Matthew's Bible, which was almost wholly copied from Tyndale's. Still another Bible largely based on Tyndale's was issued called Taverner's Bible. Other

translations and revisions following in the next few centuries were the Great Bible of Cranmer, The Geneva Bible which is sometimes called the Breeches Bible, and others.

This brings us down to the time of the translation and revision of the Bible which is called the King James Version, which was completed in 1611, after seven years devout study by the most prominent scholars of that time. The King James revision was the first translation into what may properly be called the English Language.

It is now nearly 300 years since the King James Bible was revised and translated into its present form, since which time the most authentic and accurate manuscripts of the Bible have been discovered, the Alexandrian in 1628, Sinaitic manuscripts in 1859, which contains the New Testament entire and the greater part of the Old Testament. These and a mass of other and later discoveries, including many ancient manuscripts and inscriptions, together with the fact that Philologists have acquired a much more accurate understanding of the ancient languages gave rise to comparisons which completely changed the meaning of a large number of passages in the King James Bible; besides this, the gradual transformation and change of the English language in the course of 300 years made a re-translation all the more imperative, as in the lapse of time the significance of many words have been completely altered, while others have become obsolete and obscure.

Since the translation and revision of the King James Bible upwards of forty English Dictionaries have been issued. For the reasons above stated, it was deemed necessary that a new translation and revision of the Bible be made. This was begun in England in 1870, and in the United States in 1872. The American Committee was divided into two companies, one for the Old Testament and another for the New Testament. These committees were composed of the foremost scholars of America, representing all the great religious denominations as well as the universities and colleges of the United States, and their work was finished in 1901, thus covering a period of nearly thirty years of consecutive labor and study in the preparation of the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE.

The AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE is a new translation* of the Bible in the light of twentieth century scholarship and knowledge, using the marvelous and priceless manuscripts and other material which have been discovered in the last 300 years.

It represents fifteen years of study, consideration and preparation by a company of the most eminent Biblical scholars of all the Evangelical denominations of Great Britain and America, and fifteen years of additional devout study and prayerful consideration by the American Committee who continued their organization after the English company disbanded. The AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE therefore is the product of thirty

* Edited by the American Revision Committee with its attestation on the back of the title page and published by Thomas Nelson & Sons.

years continuous, careful study by the eminent American scholars representing the great Universities, Theological Seminaries and Evangelical demominations of America.

It was a labor of love, reverently undertaken by these scholarly ministers and teachers, for the good of humanity and the glory of God. Their time and the results of their long experience were freely given without pay or compensation.

The AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE was prepared because in the older versions there are admitted inaccuracies in translation, obscurities due to words and phrases which are no longer in common use and many errors in the ancient text followed by the old translators. All these inharmonies have been found to cause serious misunderstandings and to hide from the devout seeker the real, true and clear meaning of the passage. Words have changed their significance in the course of years and many words in the older versions give a wrong impression to the reader of to-day. All the great nations have had new translations of their Bible during comparatively recent years and in no language has this been so necessary as in the English, because the changes in it have been so numerous and the growth so great.

The revisers who prepared the King James Bible completed their work in about seven years. The American Committee was nearly thirty years in preparing the American Standard Version of the Bible—thus giving nearly five times the length of time to their work. It is the work of the best American scholarship,

focussed upon every word and phrase. It has the advantage of all the accumulated wisdom and scholarship of the world since the publication of the King James Version in 1611. In addition to all these added resources, are the authentic and valuable manuscripts which have been discovered since that time. Bible study has made marvelous progress and the revelations of modern archaeology throw a new light of interpretation, enabling scholars of the present day to reach the real meaning of the sacred writers with an accuracy never before possible in the history of the world.

The AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE is the most accurate in translation, the most thorough in method, simplest in expression, and gives a clearer conception of the thought, than any other translation yet produced.

The AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE is in paragraph form, which is the form of the original manuscripts, and preserves the sequence, strength and spirit of the real Bible, as no other translation has ever done.

Its accuracy, clearness and simplicity make it eminently the people's Bible. Every stumbling-block to the perfect understanding of the Word has been removed, so far as lay within the power of the wisest Christian scholarship. The translation into dignified but living English of the present day removes the difficulty from many of the passages that have been puzzling and misleading to thousands. It does not require a scholar to interpret this Bible, though it required many scholars to produce it.

The unqualified approval of the leading ministers of all denominations, presidents of colleges, theological seminaries, of Bible training schools, the leading critical journals, the great religious papers of the world, professors, and scholars, attest that for them, as well as for the general public, the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE is the most perfect English Bible in existence. This approval has been won by the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE in less than a brief five years. Hundreds of colleges and seminaries throughout the country use it in their regular chapel services and as a text book in Bible study. In fact, there is not an important college that has not indorsed it by word or use. Thousands of clergymen of all denominations give this edition the first place in their studies, in the pulpit, and in the pew, and in countless homes of the nation it is taking its place as the Bible of the household.

• THEREFORE •

Every American lover of the grand old Book of Books should recommend and buy the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE because it is the best version of the World's Best Book. They should recommend and buy it because it represents the best thought and study of the best equipped Bible scholars of the age. They should buy it because it represents the concrete scholarship of the past two thousand years. They should buy it because a larger number of competent scholars were engaged on the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE than on any former translation. They should have

it because these translators spent a much longer time than was ever given to any translation in any language. They should study it because these translators had the use of the latest and best manuscripts, unknown to former revisers. They should buy it because the unanimous verdict of the best scholarship and of the common people of the world, after five years of examination and use, is, that this is the best translation ever made into any language.

In the selection of general literature, the thoughtful reader exercises great care as to authorship, authenticity, beauty of style and other literary qualities. Should we not exercise even greater discrimination and care in a matter of such vital importance as the selection of our Bible?

FINALLY

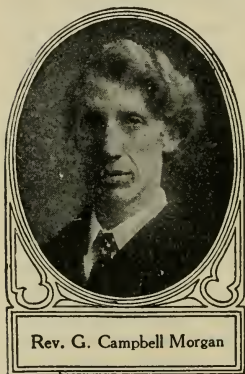
All living language is progressive and this applies to the language of the Bible, as well as to all literature. Upwards of forty English Dictionaries have appeared since King James Bible saw the light in 1611, each marking a step farther ahead in the transformation of the English language. A Bible is demanded which reproduces as closely as possible the very thought and sense of the ancient writers, clothed in modern form, intelligible to all, and free from the errors of previous translators.

These requirements are fulfilled in the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, which corrects some 2,000 inaccuracies, obsolete phrases and misinterpretations that are found in the English Revised Version.

WHAT AUTHORITIES SAY

The unanimous verdict of the best Christian Scholarship and of the common people of the world, after five years use and examination, is, that the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE is the best translation ever made in any language.

READ WHAT THEY SAY



REV. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN, D. D., says:

"I certainly value it, and am using that edition constantly. It is by far and away the best translation that we have had."



WM. R. MOODY, of Northfield, Mass. says:

"The AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE is something every Christian worker should have."



JOHN R. MOTT, *General Secretary of World's Student Christian Federation*, N. Y. C. says:

"I find it most stimulating and helpful to turn to the use of this version, having used other versions all the rest of my life."



Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, D.D.

REV. J. WILBUR CHAPMAN, D. D., *Corresponding Secretary. The General Assembly's Committee on Evangelistic Work*, Winona Lake, Ind., says:

"The translation of this edition is more accurate than that of any other. I have myself been very slow to adopt

the use of the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, but it will be my pleasure from this time on to emphasize the use of your special edition."



Ira M. Price, Ph.D., LL.D.

PROF. IRA M. PRICE, Ph.D. LL. D., *University of Chicago, in The Sunday School Times*, says:

"The most perfect English Bible in existence. It embodies in itself the greatest number of good qualities, and is the best representative of the ripest scholar-

ship at the close of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century."



REV. HENRY W.
WARREN, D. D.,
Bishop M.E. Church,
says:

"I use this version exclusively in my study and in quotations for the press. Consider it very decidedly preferable to the King James Version."



REV. J. W. MCGARVEY, *President College of the Bible, Lexington, Ky.,* says:

"We use it both in chapel and all of our classes. Immensely preferable to King James Version. It is folly to use the Authorized Version any longer anywhere. It avoids many false renderings of the Authorized Version and many false readings of the Greek from which the Authorized Version was translated, and it is truer to modern English than the English Revision."



REV. J. S. STAHR, D.D., LL.D., *President of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.,* says:

"I prefer the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE as giving a better translation of the original Greek, and I feel that it ought to be generally introduced."



Rev. C. R. Blackall, D. D.

REV. C.R.BLACK-
ALL, D.D., *Editor*
of Periodicals, Am-
erican Baptist Pub-
lication Society,
Philadelphia, Pa.,
says:

“I earnestly wish
that it might be
adopted as stand-
ard in every Church
and Sunday School
the world over.”



REV. H. A. BUTTS, D.D., LL. D., *President*
of Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N.
J., says:

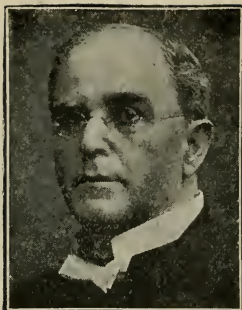
“It represents the best of American scholar-
ship and as such may fitly have a place among
our people and in our institutions of learning.”



J. H. Garrison, LL.D.
Editor, *Christian Evangelist*

J. H. GARRISON,
Editor of The
Christian Evang-
elist, St. Louis, Mo.,
says:

“I not only use,
but I recommend it
constantly through
our paper as the
best version of the
Bible in English
now in existence.”



Rev. J. T. McFarland, D.D.

REV. J. T. McFARLAND, D.D., *Editor, S. S. Literature for the M. E. Church*, says:

“We use, through the courtesy of THOMAS NELSON & SONS, the text of the American Standard Version in our *Sunday School Journal and Bible Student's Magazine*

and in our annual volume, *The Illustrative Notes*.

We do this because, in the first place,

We consider this to be the most accurate translation of the Bible, which is the first essential to the student, and because also

It is the simplest and clearest in its language, and so the most easily understood by the average person.

While of inestimable value to the scholar, it is also preeminently the version of the Scriptures for the common people.”



REV. J. G. MERRILL, D.D., *President Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.*, says:

“I am glad to say that I own a copy of the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE and that I use it constantly and the chief reason why I prefer it to the King James Version is that I regard it as containing the Word of God more fully than King James or any other version that I know of.”



WILBERT W. WHITE, *President of Bible Teachers' Training School, New York.* says:

"We use exclusively the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE in our School. We do this because we believe that it is the best English version of the Bible published."



REV. H. A. BUCHEL, D.D., LL.D., *President University of Denver, Denver, Col.,* says:

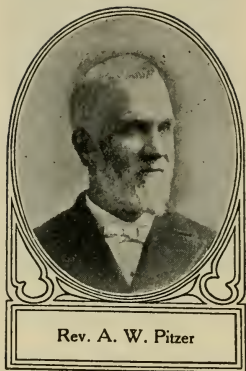
"I use the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE quite all the time. Our professor of the English Bible uses the American Standard in his class work "



CHARLES GALLAUDET TRUMBULL, says:



"It is not a new Bible. It is the same old Bible that our fathers and forefathers read and treasured. But the American Version brings the messages and truths and eternal promises of that Bible closer home to us than ever before."



REV. A. W. PITZER,
D.D., LL.D., Wash-
ington, D. C., says:

"The merits of the American Version are so many and manifest that I cannot undertake to mention them in detail; my wonder is that any scholar should hesitate for a moment to give this the preference over any

English translation that has been made. The Washington City Bible Society, of which I am president, has cordially indorsed this version."



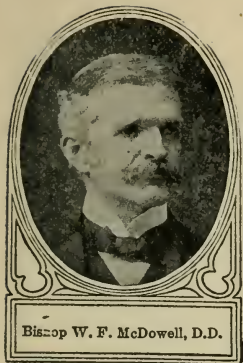
W. G. BALLANTINE, *International Y. M. C. A. Training School*, Springfield, Mass., says:

"In this School we regard the American Version of the Bible as preferable to all others. Those who still cling to the old King James Version voluntarily deprive themselves of all that Christian scholarship has gained in exact knowledge of the Bible during the last three hundred years."



J. P. SHERATON, *Principal Wycliffe College*, Toronto, Canada, says:

"It more nearly fulfills the conditions that must be realized in an ideal English Version, than any other translation in existence."



REV. WILLIAM F. McDOWELL, D.D.,
Bishop M.E. Church,
says:

"When the Revised Version of the Bible was published about twenty years ago, careful students were disappointed that the suggestions of the American revisers had not been adopted and made

a part of the text. Now after twenty years, I believe there is general satisfaction that an American Standard Version of the Bible has been published. I do not hesitate to say that I regard it as altogether the most satisfactory version of the scriptures in existence."



R. S. MACARTHUR, D.D.,
Calvary Baptist Church,
New York City,
says:

"The best edition of the Bible ever given to English readers. I wish it were in use in all our homes and churches. I use it exclusively in my pulpit."

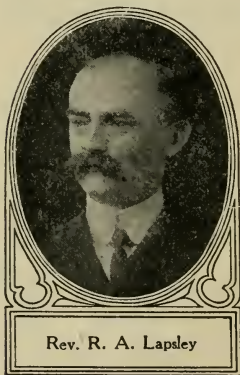


Dr. W. W. Moore

Dr. W. W. MOORE,
of *Union Theological
Seminary*, says:

"We do not think it too much to say that this is the best version of the Scriptures that has ever been made. The American Revision is by far the most exact and faithful translation, and also the most accurately and

beautifully printed Bible that has yet appeared."



Rev. R. A. Lapsley

REV. R. A. LAPSLEY, *Editor of Sunday School Literature for the Presbyterian Church (South)*, says:

"We place the Text of the Sabbath School lesson in the American Standard Version at the beginning of our special lesson treatment in the *Earnest Worker*; and I take pleasure

in testifying to its value as retaining, to a large extent, the unrivaled literary charm of the Authorized Version."



REV. O. W. POWERS, D. D.,
Pres. American Christian Convention, says :

“The American Standard Bible will be the authoritative translation for generations. This fact alone is a sufficient reason for its immediate adoption, especially for teaching purposes. It is

not fair to the children in our Sunday Schools to impose upon them the double burden of becoming familiar with two versions. To cling to the common version is but to prolong the period of confusion. Besides, it is well to avoid the puzzle of obsolete words, and the embarrassment of uncouth and offensive expressions which we would not allow to another book intended for common use. While teaching the children the Bible, let us give it to them in the best possible form.”



REV. GEORGE U. WENNER, *President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of New York and New Jersey*, says:

“THE AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE has removed many stumbling blocks from the way of a ready comprehension of the meaning of the Scriptures. It is to be commended to all who desire a clearer knowledge of the Word.”



Unsolicited Endorsement and Testimonial from the Great Oriental Biblical Scholar,

REV. JACOB CHAMBERLAIN, M. D., D. D., LL. D., Coonoor, India, says:

"After reading the testimonials from Occidental Bible scholars, it has occurred to me

that you might like to know how the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE strikes one who looks at it from the standpoint of an Oriental Bible translator and reviser.

"In our work in the re-translation of the Bible into the Telugu language, we were in contact with the work of the English and American Committees as the revision was going on. I was elected a corresponding member of the Committee in 1877, and given access to their findings and confidentially used them in advance in our work in Telugu. I also met members of the English companies and confidentially talked over matters with them in London.

"Having been engaged for more than twenty years as Chairman of *The Telugu Bible Revision Committee*, in the re-translation of the Bible from the Originals into one of the Principal Languages of India, and having at times had open before me on my table

TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE IN ELEVEN LANGUAGES to note the peculiar turn of an idea in particular passages, and having watched with intense interest the work of the English and American Revisers from the first, and now having used the Completed Work of the final American Revision Committee since its first issue in 1901, I am free to say that I regard the AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE as the most accurate and vivid rendering of the Hebrew and Greek Originals of any version yet issued IN ANY LANGUAGE.

“For the last five years it has been of the utmost use to me in my daily work in preparing a New Oriental Bible Dictionary from an Oriental standpoint for Oriental people, for often its new turn of thought or expression, more like the Oriental Originals, has been very suggestive of explanations for an Oriental people.

“It is to my mind incomparably the best English Version yet issued for all true seekers after the Real Revealed Thoughts of God.”



The Bible Study Secretaries of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations on February 25th, 1907, recommended the American Standard Bible for use in Association Bible Classes.

IN COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES

Among the Colleges, Theological Seminaries, Bible Training Schools, etc., etc., using the American Standard Version, are the following:

Adelphi College, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Albany College, Albany, Ore.
Albright College, Myerstown, Pa.
Alma College, Alma, Mich.
Amer. University of Harriman, Harriman, Tenn.
Arkansas College, Batesville, Ark.
Auburn Theological Seminary, Auburn, N. Y.
Baker University, Baldwin, Kan.
Baldwin University, Berea, Ohio.
Baylor University, Waco, Texas.
Beamsville Bible School, Beamsville, Ont.
Bellevue College, Bellevue, Neb.
Beloit College, Beloit, Wis.
Berkeley Bible Seminary, Berkeley, Cal.
Bible Teachers' Training School, New York.
Blackburn College, Carlinville, Ill.
Boston University, Boston, Mass.
Butler College, Indianapolis, Ind.
California College, Oakland, Cal.
Carson and Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.
Central University, Pella, Iowa.
Central Wesleyan College, Warrenton, Mo.
Chicago Training School, Chicago, Ill.
Christian Biblical Institute, Stanfordville, N. Y.
Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y.
College of the Bible, Lexington, Ky.
Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Col.
Columbia University, New York, N. Y.
Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.
Cotner University, Bethany, Neb.
Dakota University, Mitchell, S. D.
Delaware College, Newark, Del.
DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind.
Doane College, Crete, Neb.
Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.
Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N. J.
Earlham College, Richmond, Ind.
Eureka College, Eureka, Ill.
Findlay College, Findlay, Ohio.

French American College, Springfield, Mass.
 Furman University, Greenville, S. C.
 Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.
 German Wallace College and Nast Theological
 Seminary, Berea, Ohio.
 Girls' Latin School, Baltimore, Md.
 Guilford College, Guilford, N. C.
 Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y.
 Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio.
 Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Mich.
 Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio.
 Hope College, Holland, Mich.
 Howard University, Washington, D. C.
 International Y. M. C. A. Training School, Spring-
 field, Mass.
 Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.
 Kentucky University, Lexington, Ky.
 Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pa.
 Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn.
 Maryland College for Women, Lutherville, Md.
 McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill.
 Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.
 Missouri Valley College, Marshall, Mo.
 Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.
 Nebraska Wesleyan University, University Place,
 Neb.
 Northwestern College, Naperville, Ill.
 Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.
 Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.
 Oberlin Theological Seminary, Oberlin, Ohio.
 Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kan.
 Otterbein University, Westerville, Ohio.
 Parsons' College, Fairfield, Iowa.
 Penn College, Oskaloosa, Iowa.
 Potter Bible College, Bowling Green, Ky.
 Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Kentucky
 Louisville, Ky.
 Providence University, Oak Hill, Ohio.
 Radcliff College, Cambridge, Mass.
 Rochester Theological Seminary, Rochester, N. Y.
 Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J.
 Scarritt Bible and Training School, Kansas City,
 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville,
 Ky.
 Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.

Talladega College, Talladega, Ala.
 Texas Christian University, Waco, Texas.
 Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church,
 Princeton, N. J.
 Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in
 America, New Brunswick, N. J.
 Trinity University, Waxahachie, Texas.
 Union Biblical Seminary, Dayton, Ohio.
 Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.
 University of Alabama, University, Ala.
 University of California, Berkeley, Cal.
 University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
 University of Denver, Denver, Col.
 University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Cal.
 University of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio.
 Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Iowa.
 U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y.
 U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
 Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
 Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pa.
 Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.
 Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.
Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal; Canada.
Western Bible and Literary College, Odessa; Mo.
 Western Maryland College, Westminster, Md.
 Western Theological Seminary, Allegheny, Pa.
 Western University of Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Pa.
 Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa.
 Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash.
 Woman's College of Baltimore, Baltimore, Md.
 Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
 Yankton College, Yankton, S. D.



It is a noble work, destined to become the accepted Bible of the majority of the Anglo-Saxon race; and we are tempted to wish that it might be adopted as the one final revised version of the English-speaking world. The present volume, it is believed, will on the one hand bring a plain reader more closely into contact with the exact thought of the sacred writers than any version now current in Christendom, and on the other hand prove especially serviceable to students of the Word.—*London Quarterly Review.*

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How we got our American standard Bible

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



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